

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

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MY COLLECTION OF BEADLES HALF DIME LIBRARY

by W. M. Burns

PART ONE

At the start of my collecting this Library I knew that it would be impossible for me to get together anything like a complete file of them.

As a matter of fact I never had any desire to have a complete file of them, in spite of the fact that they are one of my favorite Libraries. I care nothing for the boy detective—city life story with which this Library abounds, especially in the last few hundreds of issues. Not that I do not like this type of tale, because I do, if well written. But the Beadle authors were sadly out of their element, when they turned to writing this type of literature. Edward L. Wheeler was the only writer Beadle had that was versatile enough to write really good tales of city life and detective stories. His tales along this line were nearly as good as his famous western tales were.

So when I started collecting them I concentrated mostly on my favorite type of tale, which are Indian stories, pioneer tales, tales of the old time hunters, trappers and scouts, tales of old flatboat days on the Ohio, the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, tales of the Overland and Santa Fe Trails. And other tales along similar lines including tales of Colonial days and the Revolution. As Oli Coomes is one of my favorite dime novel authors, I will start with something about what I have in his works.

I have Coomes tales in various other

Libraries, such as Beadles New Dime Novels, Beadles Dime Library, Nugget Library, etc., but will speak of only what I have in the Half Dime Library. I have exactly 35 Coomes tales in the Half Dime Library and there are 15 more still on my want list that I still need to complete my set in these. The ones I have are largely Indian tales, but there are quite a few about Coomes' favorite character, "Old Kit Bandy," a Rocky Mountain detective, equally at home chasing hostile Indians as well as trailing outlaws and bandits.

Old Kit and his equally famous partner, Ichabod Flea, who was usually disguised as a woman and passed as Kit's deserted wife, Sabina Bandy, were a scream, and usually afforded plenty of comedy in every story in which they appeared.

The first story I have in which Old Kit appears is #422 "Baby Sam, the Boy Giant of the Yellowstone; or, Old Spokane Joe's Trust," then they appear as follows. #444 "Little Buckskin; or, Old Kit Bandy's Amateurs," #473 "Old Tom Rattler, the Red River Epidemic; or, Laramie Joe's Forest Pards," #661 "Old Kit Bandy's Deliverance; or, Banner Ben, the Wildfire of the Prairie," #791 "Kit Bandy Rattled; or, The Infant Giant," #795 "Kit Bandy in Red Ruin; or, The Young Whirlwind of the Hills," #799 "Kit Bandy's Big Rustle; or, Saddle-King Sam," #804 "Kit Bandy's Brigade; or, Dan, the Mountain Guide," #939 "Kit Bandy's Star Engagement; or, Desert Dan, the Saddle Prince of the Hondo," #955 "Kit Bandy's Compromise; or, The Dandy Dead Shot," #1010 "Kit Bandy's Big Six; or, The

Rustlers of Jackson Basin." Of the 15 Coomes tales that I still lack in the Half Dime Library are several "Old Kit Bandy" tales.

The earliest Coomes tale that I have in the Half Dime Library is #13 "The Dumb Spy," then comes the two tales about "Keen-Knife" the young Indian. These are #27 "Antelope Abe, the Boy Guide," and #31 "Keen-Knife Prince of the Prairies." Both are fine Indian tales.

Early in youth I read #409 "Hercules, the Dumb Destroyer; or, Dick the Boy Ranger." And needless to say it is one of the first ones I went after, when I started to collect Coomes. It is also a fine Indian story and with its striking full page cover illustration is a gem indeed. Other extra good ones that I have are #178 "Old Solitary, the Hermit Trapper; or, The Dragon of Silver Lake," #224 "Dashing Dick; or, Trapper Tom's Castle," #74 Hawkeye Harry, the Young Trapper-Ranger," #134 "Sure Shot Seth, the Boy Rifleman; or, The Young Patriots of the North," #243 "The Disguised Guide; or, Wild Raven, the Ranger of the North," #300 "The Sky Demon; or, Rainbolt the Ranger," #482 "Stonewall Bob, the Boy Trojan," #562 "Blundering Basil, the Hermit Boy Trapper," #670 "Norway Nels, the Big Boy Mountaineer." This latter tale I read for the first time over 40 years ago.

Space will not permit me to name the remaining Coomes that I have in this Library, so will turn to another favorite author.

This is Edward S. Ellis. While I have nearly 50 tales by Ellis in cloth bound books, serial papers, Beadle Dime Novels, Beadles New Dime Novels, etc., I have only six of his tales in the Half Dime Library, but as he wrote very few tales under his own name for this Library, I think that I have averaged up pretty well. The six are as follows #6 "Bill Biddon, Trapper; or, Life in the Northwest," #10 "Nat Todd; or, The Fate of the Sioux Captive," #93 "The Boy Miners, A Tale of the Yellowstone Country," #254 "The Half-Blood; or, The Panther of the Plains," #271 "The Huge Hunter; or, The Steam Man of the Plains," #1104 "Seth Jones; or, The Captives of the Frontier."

Now we come to Capt. "Bruin" Ad-

ams, Capt. J. F. C. Adams, etc. Now it is my personal opinion that these two names are stock names owned by Beadle. To the best of my knowledge there's not the slightest bit of evidence to prove that there were ever any person answering to these two names.

I believe that a lot of these "Adams" tales were written by Ellis.

This is what I have in the Half Dime Library by "Adams." #247 "Old Grizzly and His Pets; or, The Wild Huntress of the Hills," #257 "The Lost Hunters; or, The Underground Camp," #251 "Light-House Lige; or, Osceola, the Firebrand of the Everglades," #288 "The Scalp King; or, The Human Thunderbolt," #1140 "Oregon Sol; or, Nick Whiffle's Boy Spy."

And now another favorite author; Joseph E. Badger, Jr. I have two scarce, hard to obtain sets, or series, by Badger. While single items of both sets are floating around here and there complete sets are hard to get together. For instance I was only about a year in getting the first four of the "Dainty Lance" series. If I remember correctly, it was nearly five years later before I finally obtained the last number to complete my set. And here's the titles of the complete set of five. #144 "Dainty Lance, the Boy Sport; or, The Bank-Breaker's Decoy Duck," #151 "Panther Paul, the Prairie Pirate; or, Dainty Lance to the Rescue," #160 "The Black Giant; or, Dainty Lance in Jeopardy," #184 "The Boy Trailers; or, Dainty Lance on the War-Path," #203 "The Boy Pards; or, Dainty Lance Unmasks."

I once had the "Silverblade" set of four complete and got them all at once. But about 12 or 15 years ago, was forced to sell them. Getting them together again was another slow process of several years and only a few months ago was I able to obtain the fourth and last of the series.

Here are full titles of the four "Silverblades":— #723 "Silverblade, the Shoshone; or, The Border Beagle's Secret Mission," #729 "Silverblade, the Half-Blood; or, The Border Beagle at Bay," #739 "Silverblade, the Hostile; or, The Border Beagle's Ghost Trail," #748 "Silverblade, the Friendly; or, The Border Beagle's Boy Pard."

Also by Badger, I have #65 "Hurricane Bill; or, Mustang Sam and his Pard," and #355 "The King of the

Woods; or, Daniel Boone's Last Trail."

While it may be a bit out of place here, I wish to mention the fact that I have the three autobiographical tales about Badger's early life in my little collection of original Beadles Boys Library. By Col. Prentice Ingraham, I have all four of the set of "Dashing Charlie" items. I got my first one about two years ago, and just a few months ago I got the remaining three in one deal. Surely a streak of luck.

Here are the titles: #749 "Dashing Charlie, the Young Scalp Taker; or, the Kentucky Tenderfoot's First Trail" #756 "Dashing Charlie's Destiny; or, The Renegade's Captive," #760 "Dashing Charlie's Pawnee Pard; or, Red Hair, the Renegade," #766 "Dashing Charlie, the Rescuer; or, The White Sioux Queen." I pause to mention here that I have only one of the five "Dashing Charlie" items in Beadles Dime Library.

Also in Half Dimes by Ingraham I have #520 "Buckskin Bill, the Comanche Shadow; or, A Crimson Trail" and #560 "Pawnee Bill, the Scout Shadow; or, The Gold Queens Secret."

I have the two scarce "California Joe" items and they are #376 "California Joe's First Trail, A Story of the Destroying Angels" by Col. Thomas Hoyer Monstery, and #395 "California Joe's War Trail; or, The Minnesota Massacre," by Capt. Frederick Whitaker.

PART TWO

I want to mention my "Buffalo Billy" item and its sequel. These are #191 "Buffalo Billy, the Boy Bullwhacker; or, The Doomed Thirteen" and #194 "Buffalo Bill's Bet; or, The Gambler Guide," both written by Capt. Alfred B. Taylor, (Ingraham.) And I have two others that give Buffalo Bill as author, but as I never personally believed that Cody ever wrote anything, I am inclined to believe that Col. Ingraham wrote them both. Here are the two. #68 "The Border Robin Hood; or, The Prairie Rover," and #158 "Fancy Frank of Colorado; or, The Trappers Trust."

Now for "Buckskin Sam." (Maj. Sam S. Hall). While I have more of Sam's tales in the Dime Library, than the Half Dime Library, such few as I have are worthy of mention. First, I

have all three of the "Chiota, the Creek" items. They are #375 "Chiota, the Creek; or, The Three Thunderbolts," #381 "Bandera Bill; or, Frio Frank to the Front," #392 "Romeo and the Reds; or, The Beleagured Ranch." And also I have #332 "Frio Fred; or, The Tonkaways Trust" and #349 "Wild Wolf of the Waco; or, Big Foot Wallace to the Front." The latter is a very rare and scarce item as most of you know. I had been collecting Beadle items for nearly 10 years before I was able to land my copy. It was in mint uncut condition when I got it. I cut it to read myself.

While I never cared much for the Beadle detective stories still I have the "Sierra Sam" series of four among my collection. A prominent Chicago collector, a very good friend of mine, presented me with the set a couple of years ago. They were then in fine uncut condition and still are. But someday I mean to cut and read them again. I first read them in Ivers "Deadwood Dick Library" some forty or more years ago. As nearly all of you can recall the titles, it is useless to record them here, or the fact that they were written by Wheeler. Another fine one that I have by Wheeler is #92 "Canada Chet, the Counterfeiter Chief; or, Old Anaconda in Sitting Bull's Camp." This is a fine Indian story.

By Major L. W. Carson (Ellis) I have #278 "The Three Trappers; or, The Mountain Monster" and also its sequel, #283 "Indian Joe; or, The White Spirit of the Hills."

Right here is a place to mention two rare ones that I have. If you don't believe it, try and obtain nice copies, as mine are, from most any collector, or dealer.

They are #76 "Abe Colt, the Crow Killer; or, The Great Fighting Man of the West," by Albert W. Aiken. The other is #106 "Old Frosty, the Guide; or Nookana, the White Queen of the Blackfeet," by J. C. Harbaugh. Only by good luck and two very good friends in the H. H. B. was I able to obtain these two scarce items. Three other good ones that I have by Harbaugh are #37, "The Hidden Lodge; or, The Little Hunter of the Adirondacks," #94 "Midnight Jack, the Boy Road-Agent; or, Gopher Gid, the Boy Trapper of the Cheyenne," and #183

"Ned Temple, the Border Boy; or, The Mad Hunter of Powder River."

While many Beadles Dime and Half Dime Librarys by Capt. Frederick Whittaker have passed through my hands, before I decided to collect this writer, I wish that I had started earlier. As in times past, I have traded off many a scarce one by him, I know will be hard to replace. But he is fairly represented in my Beadles New Dime Novels, Beadles Boys Library, Beadles Dime Library and Beadles Half Dime Library. And here's what I have in the latter written by him.

The best one in my opinion is #249 "Milo Romer, the Animal King; or, The Round the World Wanderer." This is an extra long Half Dime running to 22 pages, nearly double the length of the ordinary Half Dime. When Street and Smith reprinted the story, it took two numbers of Brave and Bold to publish the tale in full (Nos. 150-151.)

Another long one is #159 "The Lost Captain; or, Skipper Jabez Coffin's Cruise to the Open Polar Sea." This one runs to 19 pages. And I have #214 "Wolfgang, the Robber of the Rhine; or, The Young Knight of the Crossicorde," #331 "Black Nick the Demon Rider; or, The Mountain Queen's Warning," and #1109 "The Sea-Cat; or, The Witch of Darien."

And now for a bunch written by miscellaneous authors of note in the Beadle category.

A rather hard one to locate was #50 "Burt Bunker, the Trapper" by George E. Laselle. But after a long search, I finally found a copy. Another hard to obtain one was #59 "Old Hickory; or, Pandey Ellis's Scalp" by Harry St. George. Three famous fiction characters of the old West team up in this tale. They are "Pandey Ellis," "Bobby Wherrit" and "Roaring Ralph Rockwood." A grand trio and a grand Indian tale. Also by St. George I have "Hickory Harry; or, The Trapper Brigades' Spy." Roaring Ralph Rockwood was a major character in this one also.

One that I recently got in and have not as yet read is #112 "The Mad Hunter; or, The Cave of Death," by Burton Saxe. The title sounds alluring anyhow. And by Mayne Reid I have #78 "Blue Dick; or, The Yellow Chief's Vengeance." This is a many times-reprinted tale. And had three

different titles. It appeared in Beadles New Dime Novels #554 under title of "Blue Dick," in Beadles Dime Novels #189 under title of "The Yellow Chief" and under same title in #102 Beadles Pocket Library. It also appeared in Tousey's Wide Awake Library #388 under title of "The Slaves Revenge."

Beadle published a lot of the novels that I have previously listed under different titles in his various Librarys. But space did not permit me to also present their various titles in the Librarys, or Novels, in which they formerly appeared. Another fine Indian story that I have is Half Dime #51, "The Boy Rifles; or, The Underground Camp" by Archie C. Irons. In #266 "Killbar, the Guide; or Davy Crockett's Crooked Trail" by Chas. Dudley Warren, we have another grand Indian tale. Likewise so in #227 "Dusky Darrell, Trapper; or, The Green Ranger of the Yellowstone," by Edwin Emerson.

#107 "One-Eyed Sim; or, The Abandoned Forest Home" by James Bowen. #313 "Cimmaron Jack, the King Pin of Rifle Shots; or, The Phantom Tracker," by Frederick Dewey. #293 "Red Claw, the One-Eyed Trapper; or, the Maid of the Cliff," by Captain Comstock. #306 "Neck-Tie Ned, the Lariat Thrower; or, The Dug-Out Pard" by Maj. Henry B. Stoddard, Ex-Scout.

Well fellows, this is not all my little collection of Half Dimes by any means. Just a summary of my special "pets," mostly Indian-trapper-hunter-pioneer-scout-ranger tales as you have probably noted. Space will not permit me to list the balance of my Half Dimes. To do so would make an article as long again as this one has been.

At the present time my "want list" contains just 48 items as wanted. If I ever get these 48, I will feel pretty much satisfied with my little collection. But if, and when, the collection is completed, I might then be tempted to go after various sets or series, that so far, I have never tried for. Such as the "Mustang Merle" set, The "Cowboy Chris" set, the "Chincapin Dan" set, the "Light-Heart Lute" set, etc.

At present I have one of Ingrahams "Cowboy Clan" set. But no luck to date in locating the other three.

In closing this little article, I wish to give due credit to three very good

friends of mine, all prominent collectors of dime novels. Not only have they helped me immensely in my Half Dime collection, but in my collecting various other Libraries as well. They often have gone out of their way, sometimes without hope of any recompense at all, to help yours truly. I will not give their names here. Suffice it to state that one is located in the Windy City, another not far from New York City proper, while the other is located on Long Island, N. Y.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

True, The Man's Magazine, has a full page article called Crack! Bang! Crack! by Richard Mauser, on page 102, April 1946. Has four Novels in colors, Liberty Boys of 76, Tip Top Weekly, Work & Win and Young Klondike. Charlie Bragin made the writeup.

Arvid Dahlsted says on reading the last no. 822 of Old Cap Collier Library he was surprised to learn that the next number being No. 1 of Up-To-Date Boys Library, and the title is At Manila with Dewey or Ben Bravehearts Battles. Arvid also says I should correct the article of Feb. 1945. Quote—Golden Hours ran a weekly swap Column—Happy Days did not have an exchange column—unquote. Corrections please (with excuses to Charley Chan) Happy Days DID have an exchange column under "Exchange Notices." Here is a sample—John R. Robins, 466 Warren St., Brooklyn, N. Y. I will give good exchange in books, papers, stamps, etc., for a good collection of stamps. The above ad was copied from No. 61, Vol. 3, Dec. 14, 1895.

D. Ford of Macclesfield, Cheshire, England is wondering if we noticed that Frederick Door Steel—the creator of the drawing of Sherlock Holmes had died, age 70, in New York. (Who has any information on this—Ye Ed.) Bro. Ford says he's heard that Frank Richards is writing his autobiography and says it should be most interesting.

George Flaum was out to Brooklyn, N. Y. and paid Charlie Bragin a visit, March 19th. He called in to see Charlie Duprez, but he was home at the time, so missed him.

George Barton writes: Whence the

information that Bertie Harcourt was Wm. H. Muldoon—My old friend E. Harcourt Burrage told me many years ago of writing a yarn for Street & Smith's Nugget Library and using that pen name. S & S were the only American publishers whom Burrage had any use for—they paid him for American rights to 'Troublesome Times' which ran in "Boys of the World." Leslie, Munro's and Tousey all swiped his stuff and never offered him a cent.

Roy E. Morris lost his mother Sept. 3rd, 1944. Roy says it was his greatest loss. We, that have lost our mothers, know just how you feel Roy, God bless her always.

Is George Beck dead, or among the missing? Some members say he's gone, others say he's moved. I sent him a letter a short time ago, and it came back, stamped "Moved away, left no address." Who can give information on him?

Charles Jonas, before he died, sent in a little poem, that he says came to his mind at the time, March 8, 1945. "There he lies, close his eyes

What cares he for friend or foe man,
The hand of man, the kiss of woman,
'Neath the clover, under snow,
He does not care. He does not know."

This was at about the time he lost his brother George. We'll all miss Charlie "Chut" Jonas, as there will never be another man like him, may his soul rest in peace.

A. Willard Jaffray lost his dear

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and feels very blue, God bless her always, for we all know she is resting in peace, and her troubles are all over.

Ye editor has been doing a little traveling since last Roundup. He has been up to Rockland, Maine, and visited a dear old friend of his, Wm. M. Burns and saw some real o.d. timers. also visited with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Mathews and other aunts and uncles wife about the first of March, 1946.

up there too, and, Uncle Ray took me up to Camden, where Gilbert Patten was born. A beautiful home and the bay, and twin mountains. An ideal spot for such a writer. Would like to write more about my adventures up in Maine, but space does not permit at this time. As my time was so short, I didn't have time to visit other friends up there, but there will be another time, Pard.

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